

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

were largely fruitless: Peking was too far away to be very much affected, and distant victories were lost to sight in the meanderings of high diplomacy.

In **Tonkin**, General Briere de l'Isle was ordered to march on Langson and to lift the blockade at Tuyen Quang. Peking seemed to be on the point of yielding, and Ferry hourly expected word of peace when, by an amazing stroke of bad luck, came the cabled news of a French **defeat** at Langson. Then followed a terrific explosion of French public **opinion**. When Ferry went to the Chamber, on March 30, 1885, a crowd surged about the Palais Bourbon, and he was thrown from office in one of the most stormy sessions on record. Next day, by an sequence of events, came the news that Peking had signed the and that the army's defeat had been exaggerated beyond all **recognition**. As a matter of fact, the Chinese themselves had taken at Langson, thinking that their attack upon the French had failed.

THE PROTECTORATE OF ANNAM-TONKIN

is *par excellence* the country of scholars, yet the vast majority of its miserable inhabitants, wedged in between the Annamite Range and the three hundred miles of rocky coast, offer a marked contrast to the *«3lar--trteKsracy*. There is no spiritual or geographical cohesion in the ill country. The inaccessibility of Annam has a replica in its capital, Hill, *ske* chosen for its very isolation. The Emperor, who its inviolability. When for the first time he had to t envoy face to face, his mandarins forced him to

The rf between North and South bred in these

nf a for the Tonkmese, whom they tried to
 » well as politically. Tonkin, a country of dense
 ttd to 'the defeated Le dynasty, was
wm with from. Hue, who left to
 the
 fecit cmiy sndt *m Ae7%iiiemseire&* could not
 fill. The
 fte two countries were exploited by tie
TkA <rf Tonkin had always been their
 tad tibe peraecutas of tke native Christians.
 aw to the Gomitiy, uatoraly adopted die
 tttii ^^
 ** ** into a poHcy of sup-
ttmt **fe** **te* to ^ so